

# Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية

## Kuwaiti leader ends Iraq visit

BAGHDAD (R) — Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah ended a six-day visit to Iraq Saturday after talks which a diplomat said dealt with a long-standing border dispute. The Arab diplomat said President Saddam Hussein had told Sheikh Sabah Wednesday that Baghdad wanted to settle the dispute "in a brotherly spirit." The Iraqi News Agency (INA), reporting Sheikh Sabah's departure, quoted him as saying his talks had been fruitful and reflected a "true desire for constructive and positive cooperation." INA said Iraq and Kuwait had signed trade agreements, including a long-term contract for the export of Iraqi barley to Kuwait. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted the prime minister as saying in a departure statement that the two countries had pledged to continue talks on the border. "We have made positive steps toward solving the issue of the international border between the two brotherly countries and we agreed to continue pursuing and ending this issue," he said.

## King meets EEC delegation, lauds European effort

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday met with a high-level European Economic Community (EEC) delegation and stressed the need for finding a solution addressing all aspects of the Middle East problem, particularly the Palestinian question, through an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King briefed the EEC delegation, which is headed by Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordenez and includes French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, on his views on the role that Europe could play in efforts for the Middle East peace.

The King praised the EEC's Middle East stand, which, he said, deals with the problem of the region in a balanced way. The

King also explained to the delegation the importance and dimensions of the developments in the Palestinian problem in the wake of the positive position adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Petra said.

The EEC envoys discussed the aim of their visit to the region and reaffirmed the EEC's desire to contribute to efforts for peace, Petra said. They expressed satisfaction with and support for Jordan's positive and constructive position towards efforts for peace in the region, Petra added.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, the King's political advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and the



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordenez, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas (left) and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias (not in photo)

chief EEC delegate in Amman. Qasem held a separate meeting with the EEC delegation Saturday. Petra said he welcomed the European effort for just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East through a U.N. sponsored international conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## Rifai, Zou'bi voice deep satisfaction over outcome of joint committee meeting

## Jordan, Syria launch programme to increase cooperation, coordination

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee concluded its latest meeting here Saturday with the signing of minutes which spelled out agreement to boost cooperation in all fields.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Syrian counterpart Mahmoud Zou'bi signed the minutes in the presence of the Jordanian and Syrian delegations attending the meeting. Following the signing ceremony, Zou'bi and the Syrian delegation left for home.

In a departure statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Zou'bi described the outcome of the committee meetings as major achievements and a source of pride for the people of Jordan and Syria.

The Syrian prime minister said the talks were conducted in a responsible atmosphere, with both sides keen on promoting cooperation and coordination with a view to enhancing the socio-economic structure being built under the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"Jordan and Syria are totally committed to the principles of cooperation and to unifying steps in implementation and follow-up," he said.

(Continued on page 2)



## King visits army unit

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Saturday visited the 12th Royal Mechanised Division. After hearing a briefing on the division's duties and activities, the King met with the division's officers and explained to them the situation in the region. The King then discussed the dimensions of the international position towards Arab issues and Jordan's efforts to support these issues. The King also expressed absolute confidence in the armed forces and admiration in their standard. The King was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleh.

## Nablus march turns violent, Ramallah observes strike

NABLUS, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — A peaceful march by 1,000 flag-waving Palestinians erupted into a clash with Israeli soldiers Saturday, ending weeks of relative calm in this town. Soldiers opened fire when protesters ran off into market alleys and began throwing stones, witnesses quoted by Reuters. Hospital officials said one protester was shot and wounded and three injured by beatings.

The march marked the seventh anniversary of the Palestine Communist Party in the occupied territories. It was the first time for two weeks that troops in Nablus had opened fire.

Major Yehuda Federman, the local Israeli commander, said the town had been relatively calm because his reserve troops were sensitive to the problems and needs of residents. But Palestinians said activists had needed a breathing space in their 14-month uprising after bloody confrontations in December. "The youths kept relatively quiet for the past three or four weeks to give people an interval," said one Palestinian leader in Nablus who declined to be identified.

He told Reuters that after "black Friday" on Dec. 16, when eight protesters were shot dead, people were tired and many boys had been arrested.

"It does not mean the intifada is finished," he added. "It is in preparation for the next round. You will see in the next few days."

## Arafat: Israelis planning attacks

ROME (R) — Yasser Arafat said in a newspaper interview Saturday that Israeli authorities were preparing new attacks against the Palestinian leadership despite a series of secret contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"They (the Israelis) send us many messages under the table, through our representatives in the occupied territories, through other channels in Europe and elsewhere," the PLO chairman was quoted as saying in the Il Messaggero newspaper.

Asked whether he was referring to the Israeli government, which officially refuses to talk with the PLO, he said: "I'm speaking of Israeli authorities."

Arafat, who was interviewed in Tunis, did not elaborate. He said he had information that the Israeli cabinet had agreed on a new campaign against the Palestinians.

Israeli secret services had been authorised to "carry out further attacks against our leadership," Arafat said.

"They will increase the repression in the occupied territories," he said. "At the same time they are preparing a war scenario in southern Lebanon. It will be for the summer, maybe late spring, but they are preparing it. Not necessarily a war but a crisis scenario."

Arafat arrived in Cairo Friday from Riyadh where he attended the funeral of his elder brother, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported.

The agency did not say whether Arafat planned talks in Cairo. He has a brother and a sister living in the Egyptian capital.

Arafat's brother Gamal served as a Palestinian ambassador in Sanaa, North Yemen, where he suffered a heart attack and was sent to Saudi Arabia for medical care. He died Friday.

Arafat met President Hosni Mubarak last month in Cairo.

## Iran-Iraq talks resume in March

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iran and Iraq have agreed to hold direct talks next month in New York in an effort to revive their peace negotiations, which have been deadlocked since August.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar mediated a meeting Friday between Aziz and Velayati and their aides, held in a basement conference room in U.N. headquarters.

The U.N. chief emerged from the nearly 90-minute meeting and said: "It was a short meeting in which I found real cooperation with both foreign ministers."

He said Syria's Tariq Aziz and Iran's Ali Akbar Velayati agreed to hold more substantive direct meetings in New York in late March, though not at U.N. headquarters.

Friday's meeting was his first face-to-face encounter since the last round of Geneva negotiations adjourned on Nov. 11.

Velayati appeared to downplay the significance of Friday's meeting, saying afterward: "We have only had procedural talks," and adding that Iran continues to insist that both sides should "begin immediately the withdrawal of the forces to the international recognised boundary."

SPA said Tuesday the king had launched a campaign to gain Egypt's readmission to the Arab League. Saudi Arabia has been working to clear up Arab differences before holding an Arab League summit in Riyadh.

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## Afghan Shura to go ahead after delay

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan rebel leaders said Saturday they would go ahead with a postponed consultative council meeting on an interim government without Iran-based groups if necessary.

Adhurrar Rasul Sayyaf told a news conference the council, or Shura, would resume "in the very near future, in the coming one or two days."

With only four days left for the final withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the rebels are under pressure to have an interim government ready to take over after the expected collapse of the Moscow-backed Kabul administration.

Sayyaf, a fundamentalist leader of one of seven Mujahideen parties based in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar, said he still hoped the Iran-based groups would participate.

"If they cannot, I am sure they will not be in opposition to the decisions taken at the consultative council," he added.

Mohammad Karim Khalili, leader of the eight groups based in Tehran, told Reuters before the news conference he would not back down on the issue of representation and that he was preparing to fly back to Iran.

The Shura was adjourned indefinitely Friday after a brief session.

Relief effort  
Officials mounting a relief effort in Kabul prepared to hand out supplies this weekend to people in need of food and fuel as guerrillas remained posted around the beleaguered capital city.

An Ethiopian Airlines jet emblazoned "U.N." on one side brought 30 tons of wheat and dried milk to Kabul's neediest residents Friday, beginning a U.N. airlift after a two-day delay.

## LAST-MINUTE NEWS

### Taiwanese fighter crashes in China

PEKING (AP) — An F-5E jet fighter of Taiwanese air force crashed in a rice paddy in communist China Saturday after the pilot ran out of oil and parachuted to safety. A relative of the pilot in Taiwan said he believed the officer had defected to China to see his grandmother in southeastern China. But an official at the Canton (Guangzhou) office of the state-run radio said government officials did not believe that the pilot, identified as Lin Xiansun, 35, had defected. "The fog was very thick. We believe he lost his way in the fog," said the official. "He now is in the hospital in Canton with minor injuries to his bottom and arm." The pilot's wife also said in Taiwan that she believed her husband had lost his way in the fog.

### Pakistan reports rocket test success

KARACHI (R) — Pakistan said Saturday it had tested a long-range surface-to-surface missile for the second time with complete success. "The system worked perfectly, achieving the predicted range and accuracy," a government statement said. It said the rocket was fired from a mobile launching pad at a site near Karachi. Army chief Mirza Aslam Beg first announced that Karachi was testing long-range rockets last Sunday. He said then that the missiles had a range of 300 kilometres and 80 kilometres.

### Iraq, Ethiopia restore diplomatic ties

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and Ethiopia restored diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level Saturday, the Iraqi News Agency reported. It quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying the decision was in "harmony with the U.N. Charter, international law and the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement."

### Iraq, Soviet Union sign agreement

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq and the Soviet Union Saturday signed an agreement to cooperate in various fields including energy and agriculture, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. INA gave no figures but economic analysts said the agreement envisaged boosting trade to about \$2.5 billion year compared with \$1.8 billion in 1987. The agency said the accord was signed by Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi and Soviet Oil Industry Minister Vasily Dinkov.

### Afghan government frees 20 Iranians

KABUL (R) — The Afghan government freed 20 Iranian prisoners Saturday in a bid to improve relations with its western neighbour, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Iran's diplomatic representative also dismissed the move, saying 40 more Iranians were still being held. The Afghan spokesman said the prisoners had been jailed for political activities and were being released as a goodwill gesture on the 10th anniversary of the revolution which brought Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to power in Iran.

### One fifth of Byelorussian land contaminated

MOSCOW (R) — Almost a fifth of all land in the Soviet Republic of Byelorussia was contaminated by radioactive fallout from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, more than previously thought, Pravda said Saturday. Moscow has allocated another 243 million rubles (\$391 million) for Chernobyl clean up operations this year partly because of this, Byelorussian Premier Mikhail Kovalev was quoted as saying by the Communist Party Daily.

## U.N. settles row over Namibia peace plan

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — A bitter dispute between the big powers and the African states over a U.N. plan for Namibia's independence has been resolved and the Security Council will approve it next week, according to diplomats.

An accord would enable Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to draw contracts for equipment and supplies for the biggest U.N. peacekeeping operation since the world body intervened in the Congo in the 1960s.

Some 4,650 U.N. troops and civilian administrative staff are scheduled to be in place in Namibia by April 1 to prepare for U.N.-supervised elections leading to the South Africa-ruled territory's independence a year later.

Diplomats said Friday that with time running short, the secretary general might not wait for General Assembly approval — also likely next week — of a \$416-million budget since the council's sanction would make that a certainty.

At the root of the discord were fears by African and other non-aligned members that a U.N. force of 4,650 was too small to assure free and fair elections.

The secretary general resolved this Friday in a statement saying that an upper limit of 7,500

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## Failure of Afghan council scrambles future

By Michael Battye  
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — The failure of an Afghan rebel consultative council meeting in which so many hopes had rested cast a pall of gloom Friday over hopes for restoring peace to their embattled homeland.

"I don't know what we are going to do next. Keep on trying, I suppose, but it's so depressing," said a senior official of one of the three moderate rebel groups based in Pakistan and allied with four fundamentalist parties.

It was a battle between the moderates and fundamentalists over how many seats should be given to eight Iran-based groups of Mujahedeen rebels that forced a postponement of the council, or Shura, minutes after its formal opening Friday.

"I am not sure I want to contemplate the consequences of this. There are so many and most are frightening to think

about," a Western diplomat said.

The Mujahedeen and their Western backers had called the Shura a definitive event from which much good would flow.

"Mujahedeen brothers, after 10 years of sacrificing, the Mujahed nation (is) waiting for establishment of (an) Islamic government by you," read a banner greeting delegates at a pilgrims' centre near Rawalpindi, not far from Islamabad.

It will have to wait. Postponement of the Shura, intended to approve an interim government for Afghanistan as the last Soviet combat troops left the Kabul administration to its fate, was indefinite.

There was no word from any of the seven-member alliance based in the northern Pakistan city of Peshawar of immediate plans to resolve the issue of Iran-based guerrilla representation.

Failure of the Shura has damaged severely, if not shattered, hopes of Mujahedeen

unity, when they had appeared to come so close to realising what many had considered a fragile hope.

The only things they appear to agree on is that the Kabul government of President Najibullah should have no part in the country's future and that it will fall quickly once the last Soviet soldier is gone.

The Peshawar-based groups have not only a history of political hickering. They have also fought each other during the nine-year war against Kabul and Soviet forces in which a million people may have died.

Often they have fought over territory, often over booty. Western diplomats said failure of the Shura and the consequent absence of an interim government could promote more infighting.

"The prizes are great, the political, tribal and religious differences are deep. Anything could happen," a Western diplomat said.

One apparent agreement

that could have been placed at risk is not to launch full-scale attacks on Kabul and other major cities still held by Najibullah's People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

His forces are well-armed, although their morale and loyalty has been questioned widely. Battles for the cities could kill untold numbers of civilians caught in the middle.

Western diplomats said discipline among the Mujahedeen had often been a problem. An agreed interim government would have diminished that.

It would also have helped undermine Kabul by giving Afghan soldiers the strong image of a united alternative, something worth deserting to, the diplomats said.

There were, however, voices of cautious optimism, even from Mohammad Karim Khalili, leader of the Tehran alliance, even as he prepared to go home.

"I believe our people, after 10 years of jihad are politically

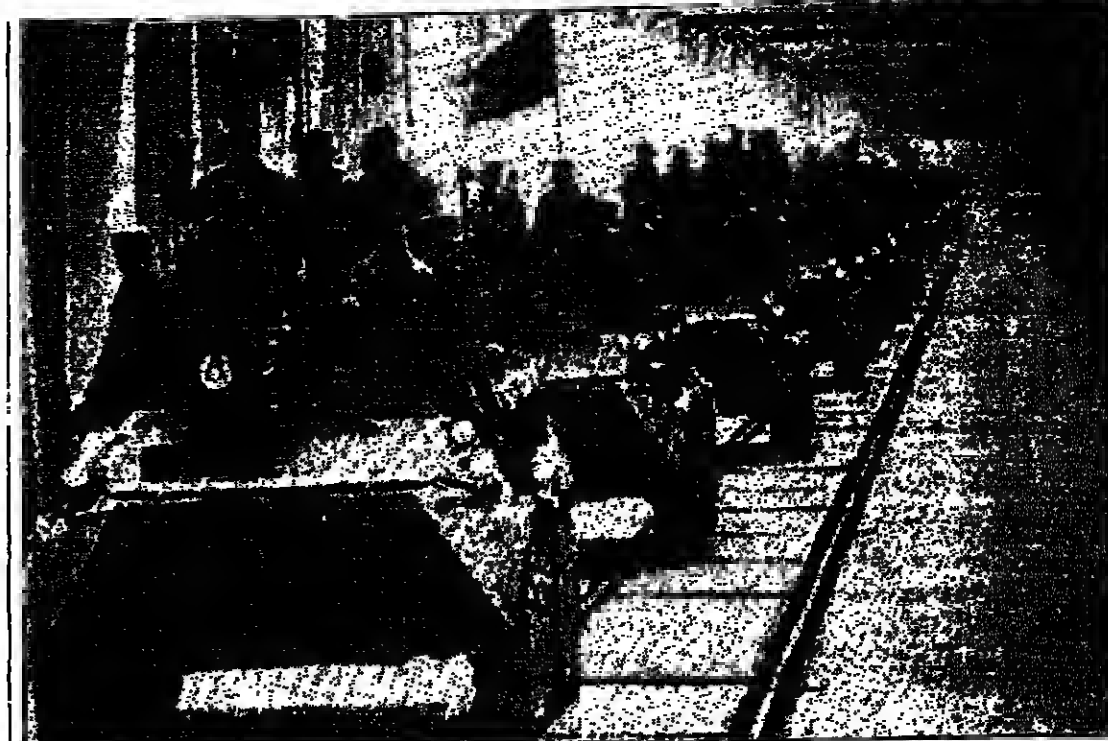
mature and will oblige the parties to get together," he said. Fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said he was sure an interim government of 28 members would be formed and include four from the Tehran-based groups.

But he was talking of the Peshawar alliance's original offer turned down by the Tehran eight.

They agreed in Tehran last weekend with Siyadatullah Mojaddidi, Peshawar alliance leader and fellow moderate, that they would give seven places as well as a higher number of Shura seats than first offered.

Khalili said he would not back down and insisted the alliance honour his agreement with Mojaddidi.

Without the Tehran eight — all of the Shi'ite minority sect of Islam, while the Peshawar group is predominantly Sunni — any interim government would have less credibility, the diplomats said.



Soviet troops cross the border of Afghanistan on their way home

## Last Soviet motorised unit rolls through Salang Pass

MOSCOW (R) — The last motorised unit of the Soviet army leaving Afghanistan has rolled through the Salang Pass about 200 kilometres south of the Soviet border, Moscow Radio reported Saturday.

Soviet patrols posted along the highway to guard against attacks by Mujahedeen guerrillas would be withdrawn, it added.

The 3,600-metre high Salang Pass through the mountains north of Kabul is on the main highway connecting the Afghan capital with the Soviet border.

The highway has been the departure route for thousands of Soviet troops leaving Afghanistan. It was also the scene of fierce fighting three weeks ago when Afghan and Soviet forces mounted a heavy offensive to try to clear the area of rebels.

Afghan rebels have held their fire for the most part during the Soviet withdrawal through the mountains. But a Soviet driver was killed Wednesday when his vehicle was hit by a shell.

Three other Soviet soldiers were killed last week when an avalanche of snow hit their convoy in the Salang Pass.

All Soviet soldiers must be out by Wednesday under Geneva accords signed last April.

Radio Moscow said a small group of Soviet servicemen were still at Kabul airport to guarantee the safe landing of cargo planes from the Soviet Union.

It said up to 500 tonnes of food a day were being flown from the Soviet Union to Kabul.

The military newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said the rearguard of withdrawing Soviet troops had

reached the town of Aibak, just 130 kilometres south of the Soviet border.

It said 39,093 troops had returned home in the current phase of the final withdrawal. By Western estimates about 11,000 still have to leave Afghanistan by Wednesday.

Krasnaya Zvezda said three Soviet soldiers were killed Thursday when their Mi-8 helicopter was shot down near the town of Pul-i-Khumri, north of the Salang Pass. They had been on their way to evacuate seriously wounded soldiers from the town.

The same newspaper reported a day earlier that another helicopter was shot down near the Salang Pass Feb. 2 after taking off from Kabul to fly back to the Soviet Union. Its crew of two was believed dead.

## Kuwait releases two pro-Iranian militants

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait freed two of 17 pro-Iranian militants jailed for their part in 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies and linked to a bloody hijack and foreign hostage takers in Lebanon.

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah said the two, an Iraqi and a stateless Arab, had been deported at the end of their five-year jail terms.

"They were released a few months back when their prison terms came up," he told a news conference.

The 17 militants were convicted of involvement in blasts that tore through the French and U.S. embassies, international airport and government installations in Kuwait in December 1983, killing 10 and wounding 86.

Three others, two Iraqis and a Lebanese, were sentenced to death but the sentences were never carried out. Another 12 received jail terms of from 10 years to life.

Release of the 17 has been a

longstanding demand of groups holding foreign hostages in Lebanon, but Kuwait has consistently refused to negotiate.

Gunmen who hijacked a Kuwait Airways Jumbo jet over the Arabian Sea last April, killing two Kuwait passengers during a stop in Cyprus, also sought release of the 17.

The 15-day drama ended in Algeria when the hijackers released their remaining hostages in exchange for their own freedom. Kuwait said at the time it had made no concessions.

The state security court sentenced Iraqi national Abdul Mohsen Rashash Abbas and Nasser Matar Dahash, a Kuwaiti resident without any nationality, to five years with hard labour in March 1984 after finding them guilty of possessing arms and explosives.

Militants inspired by Iran's revolution and opposed to Kuwait's support for Iraq in its war with Iran carried out dozens of bombings in Kuwait from 1983 to 1988 including an assassination



Sheikh Salem Al Sabah

attempt on the Emir.

Sheikh Salem described the security situation in Kuwait as sound and said there had been no arrests linked to sabotage or plots against the government in the last six months.

Tension in the Gulf region has eased considerably since Iran and Iraq ended eight years of fighting with a ceasefire last August.

"All signs are that security is good... I doubt if it crossed the minds of Kuwaitis to question that," Sheikh Salem said.

## Rapists hang in front of thousands in Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Crowds of more than 20,000 watched rapists and child kidnappers hanged in two Iranian cities in a new, swift show of Iranian justice.

The convicted were executed days after committing their crimes. Chief Justice Abdol Karim Mousavi Ardebili announced in Friday prayers in central Tehran.

In his sermon, quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, he did not say how many were executed or in which cities but vowed courts would swiftly punish drug smugglers, prostitutes, child kidnappers and armed robbers.

Ardebili, shown on Iranian television, said 20,000 people cheered when four members of a gang who kidnapped children, raped and killed them and destroyed their bodies were hanged in Ahwaz west of Tehran.

At Mianeh in northwest Iran, he said, 30,000 demonstrated in approval when a man convicted

of abducting and killing a schoolgirl was hanged despite some influential lobbying on his behalf.

Giving examples of the new crackdown, Ardebili said that in the past two weeks a Tehran resident with a fortune of 23 billion rials (\$330 million) was ordered to pay debts of 11 billion rials (\$160 million) to state banks.

The unnamed man offered to donate half of his remaining wealth to families of soldiers killed in the war with Iraq if he could keep the rest.

But Ardebili said he told the judge to confiscate property gained unlawfully.

The chief justice said in another case a jeweller was fined two billion rials (\$29 million) for smuggling valuables out of the country and "a life-time of links with the former corrupt court" of the deposed Shah.

He did not name the jeweller but told his congregation the man was someone "whom all or most of you know by name."

## Jordan, Syria launch programme to increase cooperation

Continued from page 1

of project they have undertaken to carry out," Zou'bi told Petra. "It was due to the credible and genuine brotherly atmosphere that prevailed at the meeting that the two sides agreed to exchange goods worth \$200 million during this year," Zou'bi said. He predicted increased activities in joint Jordanian-Syrian projects and companies soon.

Rifai and senior officials saw off the Syrian premier at the airport.

At the ceremony marking the signing of the minutes of the joint committee meeting, Rifai made a brief speech voicing happiness and deep satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting and said its decisions were bound to contribute to the achievement of the two countries' aspirations. He said the committee had agreed on launching a programme to identify more fields for Jordanian-Syrian cooperation and joint action to serve the common goals of the two sides.

At the ceremony, Zou'bi paid tribute to the King's pan-Arab policies and national stands in service of the Arab World. He said his meeting Thursday with the King was marked with frankness, clarity and national spirit "which reflected the King's relentless efforts to bolster collective Arab action."

The minutes of the joint committee meeting mainly tackled 13 points as under, according to Petra:

### 1. General cooperation:

The two sides formed a sub-committee to oversee oil and mineral resources industries, and another to supervise the implementation of joint projects in agriculture and supply. They decided to call sub-committees for a meeting in two months' time to discuss their programme and report to the higher committee.

### 2. Joint companies:

The two sides reviewed the work of joint companies and decided to convene a meeting of the general assembly of the land transport company and discuss ways to expand its fleet. They reviewed reports on the joint maritime company and its revenues and profits, and discussed ways for reducing burdens on the joint industry company. The industry company is responsible for a carpet plant. The plant will retain foreign currency collected from its exports to finance the procurement of equipment and more efforts will be made by both countries to market its products in other markets.

The two sides reviewed steps taken in the implementation of a pesticides project and decided to speed up measures on a feasibility study for the scheme.

### 3. Trade:

The two sides decided to fix the ceiling of trade between the two countries in 1989 at \$200 million and to allow their respective trade centres to sell up to \$10 million worth of national products.

The two sides decided to organise trade exhibitions to sell \$5 million worth of products directly to the public and to provide facilities for each other in trade deals. It was decided that a joint economic sub-committee should meet in Damascus in a month's time to discuss lists of products to be sold in either country.

### 4. Transport:

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to a joint transport and transit agreement signed in 1975 and the Syrian side agreed to a request by Jordan to charter Syrian planes to transport agricultural crops provided ample time in advance is given with the request.

### 5. Electricity:

The two sides reviewed measures being taken to link the national grids and current cooperation in exchanges of information and expertise in electricity and in providing training to technicians and in cooperation in renewable energy.

### 6. Contracting:

The two sides recommended that the concerned authorities launch cooperation in contracting and benefiting from manpower and technical potentials in both countries.

### 7. Agriculture:

The two sides reviewed agricultural cooperation and decided to provide each other with expertise, potato seeds and fruit tree

saplings. They also agreed to cooperate in combating desert locusts, and to entrust a joint committee to help launch agricultural integration and to help promote the marketing of fruits and vegetables produced in Syria and Jordan in foreign countries.

### 8. The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO):

The two sides agreed that JAMPCO will purchase the following from Syria during 1989: apples, apricots, cherries, pears, dried figs, raisins and canned fruit and vegetables as well as potato seeds, while Syria will study possibilities of importing Jordanian lemons, tomatoes and eggplants.

### 9. Royal Jordanian:

The two sides agreed that the two national airlines hold a meeting to chart a plan for Syria to pay its dues to Royal Jordanian as soon as possible.

### 10. Pharmaceuticals:

Syria and Jordan agreed to take measures to implement contracts related to trading in pharmaceuticals produced in either country.

### 11. Glass:

The two sides agreed on measures for import/export operations concerning glass produced in either country.

## Nablus march turns violent

Continued from page 1

for the people of the occupied territories.

Urging the council to begin preparations for an international conference on the Middle East, Nasser Al Kidwa said: "Until then, what is urgently required is to provide the necessary protection for our people in the occupied Palestinian territory by the United Nations."

The debate on Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising followed a U.S. human rights report that criticised Israeli practices.

The council adjourned until Monday without voting on any resolution. Tunisia requested the debate.

Kidwa raised a list of complaints against Israel:

"Have you ever heard, even during the dark ages, of the demolition of a family's home because of a stone thrown by a child at occupation troops?" Kidwa said.

"Have you ever heard of the so-called plastic bullet that settles inside the head, causing total brain damage or brain death, mostly among children?" he said.

"Have you ever heard of troops, even when not in so-called danger, being given licence to fire at unarmed civilians?"

Kidwa said 494 Palestinians had been killed, some 50,000 injured and 30,000 arrested, including 4,500 placed in "administrative detention." He also said there had been 49 expulsions and 600 miscarriages, while 560 homes had been destroyed.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 733111-119	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children programmes
17:10	Basketball
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Local programme
18:25	Local series
19:15	Local programme
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:40	Variety programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	La Baby Sitter
18:30	L'Ecole des Femmes
19:00	News in French
19:15	A documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Variety programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Perfect Strangers
21:10	Politics of Food
22:10	News in English
22:20	The Equaliser
PRAYER TIMES	
04:59	Fajr
06:18	Dhuhr (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:50	Asr
14:55	Maghrib
17:22	Maghrib

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Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 633785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzanta Church Tel. 622366	
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Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821244	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
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Al Shamsa pharmacy	9852561
ZARQA:	
Dr. Hisham Hyassat	633681
Dr. Azmi Khalil	08-53200
Khalil pharmacy	985417
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Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
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AQABA:	
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MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	300 / 450
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 250
Beans	600 / 550
Broad beans	800 / 700
Carrot	180 / 140
Carrots	240 / 200
Cauliflower	250 / 200
Cucumbers	650 / 550
Eggplant	270 / 200
Garlic	340 / 200
Grapefruit	220 / 180
Lemon	230 / 180
Lettuce (per one)	160 / 120
Marrow (large)	500 / 400
Marrow (small)	750 / 650
Orange (Shammout)	450 / 400
Orange (local)	300 / 250
Onion (dry)	320 / 160
Onion (green)	280 / 240
Pepper (hot)	800 / 700
Pepper (sweet)	650 / 600
Potato	250 / 200
Spinach	170 / 120
Mandarin	370 / 300
Tomatoes	210 / 150
FOR THE TRAVELLER	

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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## Rifai urges all sections to rationalise spending

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Saturday issued instructions to all government departments cautioning them to rationalise spending.

The circular urged these departments to follow up collection of public revenues, to improve means of collection, to reduce current spending as well as capital expenditure, and cautioned against borrowing to finance infrastructure and services projects.

Also Saturday, the cabinet announced that it is offering 16 new projects in Jordan the "economic development scheme (PLS)" entitling them to full exemptions and privileges as stated in a law for the encouragement of investments.

These projects include plants for the production of animal feed, stock breeding and poultry farm.



HRH Prince Mohammad

## Prince Mohammad, Majali discuss shooting sports

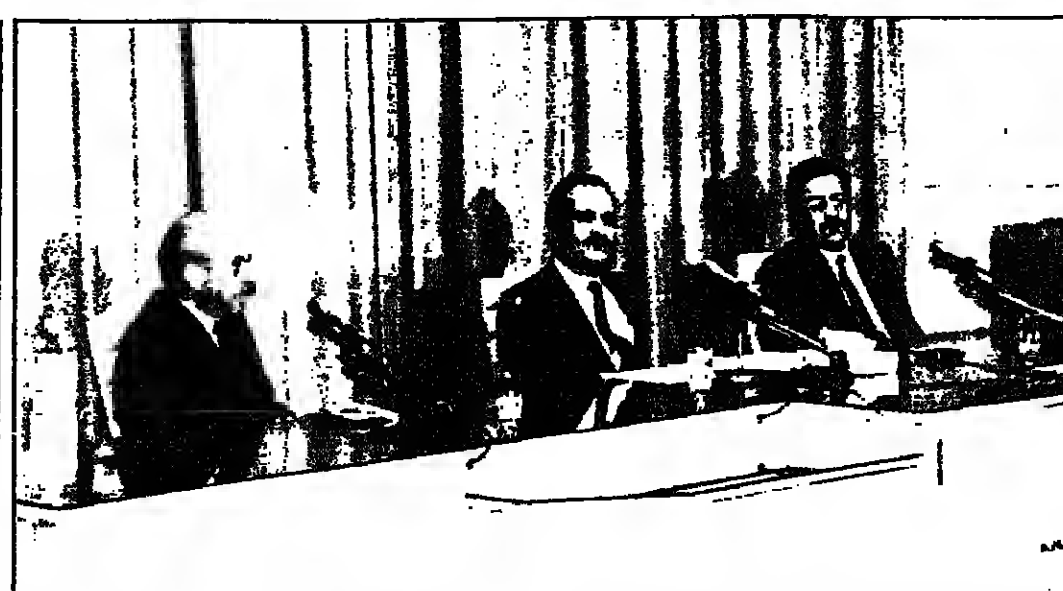
AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein Saturday visited the Royal Shooting Federation and met with Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

They discussed PSD cooperation with the federation to promote shooting sports in Jordan.

Prince Mohammad paid tribute to the PSD's top quality shooting team within the federation's activities for its high performance in recent competitions in Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The PSD chief said he was ready to provide support to the federation in the form of training shooters to qualify them for Arab and international competitions.

Senior PSD officials were present at the meeting.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses a symposium on international humanitarian law held at the Jordan Electricity Authority Headquarters in Amman (Petra photo)

Talks on international humanitarian law begin

## Crown Prince urges all states to agree on means to guard human rights

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday urged major powers to commit themselves to the implementation of international agreements and protocols in all areas of tension and struggle, with special emphasis to be given to the 1964 conventions and the 1977 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

their services to the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories during the ongoing uprising.

He said such assistance is bound to enhance the Palestinian people's steadfastness.

JNRC's President Ahmad Abu Oura addressed the session referring to various violations to the international agreements in the occupied Arab territories and called on the international community to provide protection to the civilian population.

Taking part in the three-day symposium are delegates representing JNRC's branches in the Kingdom, representatives of various ministries, professors from the University of Jordan and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The symposium, which was organised by the JNRC and the ICRC will review the Geneva conventions of 1949 among other international laws, issues related to civilian population protection during military occupation and other topics.

Addressing a symposium on international humanitarian law held at the Jordan Electricity Authority headquarters, Prince Hassan also called for the development of the law of peace and urged all nations to achieve minimum level of agreement on means to develop the international humanitarian law with a view to safeguarding human rights. He also advocated an international code of conduct to which all nations should be committed in times of war and peace alike.

"There is need to emphasise human dignity and for this reason we call for the ban of all forms of terrorism and the elimination of all mass destruction weapons — nuclear, chemical and biological," Prince Hassan said.

## Decision to revoke licences of all moneychangers gets public support

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government's decision to revoke the licences of all non-bank exchange firms and to close down their offices after seizing their books and records, has been instrumental in bringing about stability in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. dollar and other foreign currencies, and put an end to speculations in the money markets that had prevailed in Jordan recently, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

amounts of foreign currency required for trade, the bankers added.

Petra said that the government's decision has drawn very warm welcome from Jordanian merchants and importers who now have greater facilities to open letters of credit at banks freely to ensure their imports.

The Housing Bank has decided to operate mobile exchange units at border checkpoints and remote villages to meet the needs for foreign currency by travellers to

and from the Kingdom.

The bank issued a statement saying that it will open units at Ramtha, Amari, Azraq, Mudawara and Dura to help travellers obtain sufficient amounts of Arab and foreign currencies.

The Housing Bank also announced that it will open its branches in a number of districts in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Aqaba, Ramtha and Mafrq on Friday to provide further facilities in this respect.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**ROYAL VISIT:** His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday visited Minister of Agriculture Youssef Hamdan Al Jaber who is currently undergoing treatment at Al Hussein Medical Centre. (Petra)

**KING CONDOLES ARAFAT:** His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable of condolences to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on the death of his brother Jamal Arafat. Jamal Arafat died in Saudi Arabia early Friday. (Petra)

**CABINET DECISIONS:** The cabinet Saturday endorsed a bill cancelling the law on exchange of money in Jordan. The cabinet decision cancels all regulations and decisions issued in accordance with the law, number 52 for 1976. The cabinet also endorsed new regulations amending the internal charter of the Jordan Bar Association and issued new regulations for the establishment of a court of first instance in Madaba. (Petra)

**RJ FLIGHTS TO INDONESIA:** A Jordanian-Indonesian agreement to operate joint flights using Royal Jordanian (RJ) aircraft will go into effect in May, according to a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The agreement was signed by CAA Director Mahmud Balqas during his visit to Indonesia recently in the course of a three nation tour in South East Asia. (Petra)

**MADABA TO SPEND JD 11.353M IN 1989:** A total of JD 7,366,262 were spent in Madaba district in the first half of the 1986-1990 five-year development plan, according to district governor Khalil Khreisat. He said that a plan has been prepared for spending JD 11.353 million during 1989 on a variety of projects which include the setting up of an industrial and handicraft zone. (Petra)

**MA'AN MUNICIPALITY BUDGET:** Ma'an Municipality's 1989 budget amounts to JD 534,000 of which JD 85,000 has been allocated for building a marketplace, according to a municipality spokesman. He said that the rest of the allocations will finance the construction of roads, public gardens, land appropriation and the maintenance of a pilgrims' city. (Petra)

**RAMTHA CLEANING CAMPAIGN:** Ramtha Municipality is launching a major campaign to remove rubbish and old dilapidated buildings from the main Amman-Damascus road which passes through the northern city. Acting Mayor Youssef Maia said that the municipality is also providing facilities and equipment to help citizens build walls along the stretch of highway going through the border town. (Petra)

**BALQA PROJECTS:** Projects carried out by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Balqa Governorate in 1988 cost JD 11,330,000. This included routine maintenance of roads at JD 172,540 and construction projects at JD 123,120. (Petra)

**8 NEW POST OFFICES IN MAFRQA:** Transport and Telecommunications Department in Mafrqa Governorate opened eight post offices in 1988. Three of these offices are in the city of Mafrqa while the remaining five are in the villages of Ain Al Zinyah, Al Mansoura, Um Sarb, and Kom Al Ahmar. These post offices provide services to over 30,000 people. Two more post offices will be opened this week at the Rifaiyat and Jaber Al Sarhan townships thus providing services to 3,000 more people. (Petra)

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION:** A number of officials from financial and industrial institutions in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, and Bahrain Saturday began a seven-day meeting at the Institute of Private Administration on administrative organisation. (Petra)

**ORAL REHYDRATION THERAPY:** Regional Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the Middle East and North Africa Richard Reid opens a two-day workshop Sunday on the role of communication in promoting oral rehydration therapy (ORT) at UNICEF regional office here. Taking part in the workshop, which is organised by the regional communication section, are representatives for fourteen countries in the Middle East and North Africa region including Jordan. (J.T.)

## AAU delegation leaves for council talks in Mauritania

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Amman-based Association of Arab Universities (AAU) left for Mauritania Saturday to attend the AAU's 22nd council meeting which is attended by heads of Arab universities.

The delegation is led by AAU's Secretary General Mohammad Dugheim who said in a pre-departure statement that the council will discuss seminars which will be organised in cooperation with Arab universities during 1989, and will review a report by the AAU's secretariat on the 1988 activities.

The three-day meeting will also tackle projects prepared by the AAU sub-committees concerning Arabisation of foreign terms and programmes for issuing AAU's booklets and periodicals, Dugheim noted.

He said the council will also discuss applications for AAU's membership by a number of Arab universities, a set of proposals for organisational changes in the AAU's secretariat and a general budget.

The AAU's current membership now stands at 72.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Girajorian at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An exhibition of lithographies by French artist Jean-Paul Chambras at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism at Mu'ta University.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Town Squares of Europe" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURE

- ★ A lecture sponsored by Amideast on accreditation of post-secondary institutes in the U.S. at the American Centre — 5:00 p.m.

### FILMS

- ★ An Italian film entitled "Ginger & Fred" which is shown as part of the European Film Week at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A feature film entitled "On Golden Pond" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Two German documentaries: one entitled "Moorfelden" and the other is on F.W. Raftisen, founder of the German Cooperative Societies, at the Yarmouk University — 5:00 p.m.

## Malhas: Jordan committed to WHO's 1978 programme

AMMAN (Petra) — A six-day workshop on means of combating diarrhoea opened in Amman Saturday with the participation of 35 delegates representing 23 nations within the Mediterranean region.

The workshop, which was organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health aims at orienting the participating countries on the up-to-date information related to planning, executing and controlling the implementation of projects pertaining to diarrhoea's according to a WHO official in Amman.

He said the delegates will be fully informed of measures that should be taken to prevent such a disease and the meeting will present a forum for airing their views

and exchanging information and expertise.

Health Minister Zubair Malhas addressed the opening session emphasising that Jordan has been committed to WHO's 1978 programme for combating diarrhoea, and has set up a specialised centre at Al Bashir Hospital to deal with acute cases.

The Ministry of Health provided proper training to doctors and appointed them to work at primary health care centres around the Kingdom to help stem such a disease, the minister noted.

He said that the Ministry of Health initiated a programme in 1982 to combat the disease in cooperation with WHO, and in 1987 the ministry started producing and distributing powdered

drugs for combating diarrhoea free of charge.

"Like all other doctors around the world, Jordanian physicians and specialists had been prescribing a large number of drugs to deal with cases of diarrhoea, Malhas said.

The Ministry of Health, he added, has been distributing the Oral Rehydration Therapy powder free of charge but the continued dispensing of other drugs at the same time had caused a continuation of diarrhoea, is a clear manifestation of the close cooperation that can provide essential service to the public.

A WHO representative also delivered a speech outlining the organisation's programmes around the Mediterranean to stem diarrhoea.

## No new EEC peace initiative

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Three European Economic Community (EEC) foreign ministers said Saturday their talks here with His Majesty King Hussein focused on the question of holding direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations within the framework of a proposed international conference.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez, heading an EEC delegation on an official visit to Jordan, told a press conference here that the EEC had no plans for a new European peace initiative.

"This is not a new peace initiative as such," Ordonez said. "We had enough of existing initiatives. The problem now is to implement the initiatives that have been supported by the international community."

Ordonez, flanked by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias, said the three were "exploring openings to convene the international conference."

He ruled out European pressure on Israel which remains the only country in the region to reject the convening of the proposed conference and opposes talks with the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO).

Ordonez said talks with the King also dealt with the issue of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, the question of Palestinian self-determination and the idea of a confederation between Jordan and the occupied West Bank.

Ordonez said the King stressed the importance of the European role in ongoing peace efforts. The Spanish foreign minister said they also discussed the question of holding direct Arab-Israeli negotiations within the framework of the proposed conference.

In response to a question on possible economic assistance to Middle East countries, Mr. Abel Matutes, the EEC commissioner for Mediterranean affairs and North-South dialogue, said the community was prepared to consider an economic plan for the Middle East, "provided there is a political consensus on which to build the economic plan."

Ordonez said the King was "specially interested" in the European proposal. The Spanish minister, who is head of the EEC Council of Ministers, said Europe was coordinating diplomatic moves with the United States and the Soviet Union. He said the "troika" would report the outcome of the Middle East tour to

the EEC Council of Ministers.

meeting in Madrid, Tuesday. The year 1989 "could be a decisive" for peace in the Middle East, Ordonez said. He pointed out that there may be a change in the Israeli position vis-a-vis the international conference, noting that 55 per cent of the Israeli population supported a dialogue with the PLO.

He said the EEC recognised the question of Israel's "security" as an important point to be discussed within the framework of the proposed conference. He stressed that the PLO must be associated with the international conference but did not confirm whether Europe supported PLO participation in a separate delegation.

On the U.S. position vis-a-vis the Middle East, Ordonez said the EEC was not fully aware of the stand of the new U.S. administration. He said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was expected to discuss the issue with his European counterparts during a visit to Europe soon.

The European delegation leaves for Cairo Sunday and is due in Damascus Monday.

The Spanish minister has already met PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Madrid and later conferred with Israeli leaders.

## Income Tax Department collects JD 18 million since Jan. 1

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department has collected JD 18 million since the beginning of the year and the collected sum is JD 1 million higher than collections made in the first five weeks of 1988, Department Director General Salman Tarawneh announced Saturday.

He said that the total collection of income tax in Jordan last year stood at JD 42.3 million down from JD 45.335 million in 1987, JD 47.96 million in 1986 and JD 54.45 million in 1985.

Last year the department hoped to collect JD 60 million but that proved impossible due to the application of a new income tax law which offered certain exemptions to a number of sectors intended to serve as incentives to stimulate investments, Tarawneh said in a statement published in Al Dustour daily newspaper.

He said last year also witnessed the merger of major insurance companies and the two cement

companies, a process that warranted exemption from income tax for those merging companies for economic reasons.

Despite the fact that the collections are not as big as those of the past year, the department continues to pay reimbursements to those taxpayers who had paid larger sums in income tax than was required, and this year the department's reimbursements are expected to total JD 400,000, Tarawneh noted.

Tarawneh pointed out that Jordanians pay one of the lowest rates of income tax in the world, and the total amounts collected do not exceed three per cent of the total national income annually.

But still some of the taxpayers try to avoid paying their dues and there are court cases involving the department and those citizens, companies or other organisations because of disputes over sums required to be paid, Tarawneh noted.

## Meeting on designing electric power transmission ends

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A seminar on designing electric power transmission ended Saturday at the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA).

The five-day seminar reviewed the latest technology in designing and laying cables and transmission lines, taking into account urban construction and other activities.

It also tackled the current trend by a number of Arab states to link their national grids to provide greater power facilities and more guarantees for power supplies.

The seminar which was organised in cooperation with an Italian firm was attended by delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Iraq

and Libya.

Of the group, Jordan and Egypt have gone a long way towards linking their national grids, and a meeting held here last week finalised a \$170 million project to link the two countries' grids.

The four-year project entails laying overhead and submarine cables linking Aqaba with Sinai as a first step in the project, which is being implemented with help from a French consultancy firm.

Jordan and Egypt are also among five Middle East nations which decided to conduct preliminary studies to set up a power grid interconnection in the region.

neh noted.

He said at present the department is involved in 300 court cases, and these constitute only 20 per cent of the total number of disputed cases, because 80 per cent of the cases are normally settled amicably outside the court.

Tarawneh said that any income earned by a Jordanian or a foreigner is subject to income tax if obtained for activities conducted inside the Kingdom, but Jordanians working abroad are not required to pay income tax for their activities outside Jordan.

In reply to a question about income tax on limited income people, Tarawneh said that they actually do not pay any tax especially if they are married and had a monthly salary around JD 150.



Drawings and watercolours

GOETHE Institute in cooperation with the Institute of Foreign Cultural Relations of Stuttgart Saturday began a five-day exhibition of drawings and watercolours of German Romanticism, at Mu'ta University. (J.T.)

## THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION JORDAN VALLEY AUTHORITY Advertisement for Prequalification of Contractors to Tender for the North Ghor Conversion Project

The government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has secured a loan for financing the construction of this project from the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

Applications are invited from: 1) Local Jordanian contractors classified: a) with first grade in both water & sewerage and in electro-mechanical, or b) with first grade in water & sewerage, in joint venture with first grade in electro-mechanical, 2) Japanese contractors, and 3) contractors of all developing countries, as defined in article 1.1. (b) of the Memorandum of Understanding of Jointing of Bilateral Development Loans, in accordance with the following conditions:-

1. Description of Project:-
  - a) **CIVIL WORKS:** These comprise: 10 turnouts along King Abdullah Canal including sand traps, pumps for pumping stations and gravity turnouts and an operator's dwelling block at each turnout.
  - b) **ELECTRO-MECHANICAL WORKS:** These include: 29 pumping units, 10 mechanical screens, 10 mechanical trash racks, valving and controls, motor control centres, outdoor lighting for the areas of the turnouts, and pumping stations and other ancillary electro-mechanical works.
  - c) **PIPELINE NETWORKS AND ROADS:** These include: — 280 km of pipelines between 100 - 700 mm diameter. — 48 km new service roads. — 170 km rehabilitation of existing service roads. — 2300 farm turnout assemblies.
2. Prequalification forms may be obtained from the main offices of Jordan Valley Authority - JVAH Amman, starting Feb. 9, 1989 against a non-refundable fee of JD 100.-
3. The present schedule is to make tender documents available to prequalified contractors on May 20, 1989. Construction will require about three and half years.
4. Last date for submission of prequalification form and documentation at the Directorate of Government Tenders/ Ministry of Public Works and Housing, shall be March 8, 1989 at 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Eng. M. Bani Hani  
Secretary General  
Ministry of Water And Irrigation/JVA









The Programme has always believed in the benefits of school-feeding projects, both for children and their parents and for the future development of the country.

By Bonita Brindley

his is the first of a two part article published by the *Journal of the World Food Programme* on food aid for development and emergencies in the last 25 years.

MUCH has been learnt about unilateral food aid in the last 25 years and the World Food Programme can rightly proclaim, Food aid works. Yet food aid remains one of the most controversial and emotional subjects in the total aid picture.

Despite ongoing debate, the fact is that it has been necessary to provide food aid to the

poor and the hungry for more than a quarter of a century, reflects the failure of the global community to push international economic and social development to the point where food aid becomes obsolete. During its 25 years, WFP has demonstrated to the satisfaction of both donors and recipients, that food aid, beyond its use in humanitarian relief, can also be used effectively as a development tool. In fact, some authorities now say food aid is, in some instances, superior to financial aid because it can be intensively concentrated on the poorest and least developed countries and on the most vulner-

# Freedom from hunger, freedom from poverty

able groups within those countries.

Today the Programme is the largest provider of direct assistance to the poor in the U.N. system, supplying one-quarter of all food aid; yet its establishment was the result of a long and complicated process of debate among the founding nations.

## Early history

As early as 1946, Lord Boyd-Orr, the first Director General of FAO, proposed the establishment of a World Food Board. It was to have a mandate to stabilise world agricultural prices, to deal with emergencies such as famines and to finance the disposal of agricultural surpluses. The proposal was rejected, mainly by potential donors, who were reluctant to have an international body interfere with their normal channels of trade.

Three years later, an idea was put forward for an International Commodities Clearing House which would purchase commodities, maintain the flow of trade during times of currency imbalances, and help countries requiring emergency relief or development projects.

In 1952, a proposal was made to establish an Emergency Food Reserve. Three alternatives were suggested:

- Food stocks to be held by an international agency.
- A fund for purchasing and distributing food stocks.
- Emergency food reserves to be held by national governments for use in emergencies.

None of these proved acceptable.

A short time later yet another proposal was put forward, this time for a World Food Reserve, with the intention of raising the levels of food production and standards of food consumption in many areas of the world where famine and chronic malnutrition were severe, and to provide relief during famine and other

emergencies. After much discussion, no decision was reached.

The question remained, "How can we best use agricultural surpluses to aid developing countries without upsetting normal markets or trading patterns?" In the 1950's, these surpluses were a growing problem. Clearly, there was a need to stabilise agricultural prices on the international market and protect producers and consumers from fluctuations in both price and availability. The struggle to find a solution ended when the problem was redefined.

Most of the focus in solutions discussed had been on the difficulties of the donors. The surpluses were viewed as unwanted burdens to be disposed of as smoothly as possible. The Ezekiel Study, published in 1955, is a classic work on food aid because it completely reversed this inappropriate focus and began a systematic investigation of the possible uses and drawbacks of food aid from the point of view of recipients.

In October 1960, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution which, for the first time envisaged a multilateral system of food aid. This was a breakthrough and closely linked to the fact that the Sixties had been declared "The U.N. Development Decade." There was an incredible climate of optimism.

The expert group stated, "Aid is needed for a transition period of one to two decades. Some countries can achieve the goal in the next decade, most of them in the next fifteen years. Some may require twenty years or more."

Despite their highly exaggerated optimism, the expert group convened in the Sixties prepared a report which appears to be the first proposal for treating food surpluses as a potential contribution to the economy of the recipients, rather than an unwanted burden to be disposed of for the donor's convenience. Another conclusion of the report has a

timeless ring to it, "Freedom from hunger can ultimately be achieved only by freedom from poverty. Almost three decades later hunger and poverty are clearly on the rise again. The absolute number of malnourished increased in the 1980's, but not as a percentage of total world population.

Finally, at the 1961 FAO Conference, delegates had before them a report which for the first time discussed how food surpluses could be an asset to economic development. However, the report did not go so far as to suggest an outright multilateral food-aid programme but cautiously recommended coordinated bilateral programmes.

It was a surprise when the U.S. delegate, George McGovern, who at the time was the Director of the Kennedy Administration, "Food for Peace Programme," stated that his country favoured a multilateral approach and was willing to contribute \$40 million towards an initial funding of \$100 million. Although there was no initial consensus, the idea soon found favour and only six months later it was agreed among the world's nations to launch the World Food Programme.

McGovern, later Senator from South Dakota and the 1972 U.S. Democratic presidential candidate, drew up a blueprint for how this organisation would work.

— The agency would be launched for three years on an experimental basis.

— All contributions would be voluntary.

— An intergovernmental committee would become its governing body.

— The agency would adhere to the established U.N. principles of surplus disposal.

There was still no consensus on whether the focus should be on emergency relief or economic and social development although the majority supported economic and social development. The follow-

ing year, the first pledging conference yielded over \$87.3 million from 33 countries.

The primary aim of the World Food Programme in its initial stages was to provide for emergency needs. Pilot projects were to be tested in other uses of food aid — using it to further economic and social development was thought to be essential.

Needless to say, natural and man-made disasters were not held in abeyance while the international community discussed how to best deal with them. Just before the World Food Programme officially came into existence an earthquake struck Iran in September 1961, killing 12,000 people. The harvest was lost along with large numbers of livestock. WFP's very first act was to step in with shipments of grain, tea and sugar to help victims survive the winter. Iran was not alone, even before the Programme had officially invited applications for projects it had provided assistance to Thailand after a hurricane and to Tunisian refugees.

The first development project that WFP funded helped resettle 30,000 Nubians in Sudan who were forced to leave their ancestral homes in the Wadi Halfi when water threatened to submerge their land, following completion of the Aswan High Dam. Food aid was provided for the settlers until they harvested their first crops.

During the following three years, the Programme approved 116 development projects and handled 32 emergency operations in 25 countries. Virtually all of its resources were committed. One thing was immediately clear, there was a need for this type of organisation.

Still, there were constraints. One was the experimental nature of the Programme. Its initial time frame of three years meant imposing some limits on where efforts could be concentrated.

This prevented the Programme from tackling problems in the poorest and hungriest countries which lacked the infrastructure necessary to absorb food aid. The Programme's first three year's work would be evaluated on the basis of achieving highly visible and measurable results, making the choice of recipient countries crucial. Consequently, assistance was concentrated in the Near East and North Africa, where countries were already experienced and equipped to assimilate

aid. When a study of the first three years was concluded, it recommended that the World Food Programme be continued and expanded. The Intergovernmental Committee agreed with the recommendation.

Although the official "experimental" stage came to an end, WFP has never stopped trying new types of projects and new approaches. This strategy remains one of the strengths of the Programme today.



The Republic of Korea is one country that no longer requires WFP assistance. This photo of a flood control project was taken in 1972.

# Keeping in touch to live longer

There is evidence that those who refuse social contact as they grow older may well be shortening their life.

By Rene Diekstra

GENEVA — Scientific studies which link the health of individuals with their social relationships have shown that active social support can at least in part explain the long life expectancy of some people. Those who tend to isolate themselves from social contact, on the other hand, were more likely to suffer from mental health problems such as depression.

Loneliness is hard to define because it is a subjective thing. A simple and acceptable definition is a feeling of malaise or distress at the person concerned attributes to a lack of relationships with other people with whom to change feelings and ideas and do things.

Loneliness is due more to the quality of contacts people have than to the number of them. So it depends less upon the contacts at an individual actually has on how he or she feels about

gn. A person can feel lonely when his or her social life is negatively seen as rather active. Three types of loneliness can be distinguished: the temporary loneliness caused by significant life events such as divorce or bereavement, and chronic loneliness. Temporary loneliness is real, for we all feel lonely every now and then, maybe for evening, a day, a few days or even several weeks. Loneliness resulting from bereavement or loss is also temporary but it evolves into the chronic form, namely when the person cannot adapt to the new situation that has been created. Chronic loneliness is the kind that has the most serious consequences.

Communal life is not always about tensions, certainly, but is generally less dangerous than those caused by chronic loneliness and isolation. An individual who lives as part of a family or a family tends to live longer. And after the death of a

partner, the risk of illness and premature death increases markedly in the surviving partner.

This relationship between social relations and mortality is clearly demonstrated by research. The death rate among isolated persons proves to be three times that of others who enjoy active social lives. Apparently social support or social relationships have a buffering effect, which results in what some scientists call "social immunity."

It may well be that the variations in life expectancy among different nations can at least partly be explained by differences in social support systems. For example, the Japanese live in a rather polluted and highly industrialised country. As a nation they smoke and drink substantially and their work life is often very stressful. Yet their life expectancy exceeds that of practically all other nations in the world.

This is not a question of race — a theory advanced by certain scientists — because the mortality rate of those Japanese who emigrate to the United States falls into line with that of the other Americans within the time-frame of one generation. There are, however, Americans of Japanese origin who do settle in the United States yet whose life expectancy remains at the level of their home country. There are far fewer cases of cardiovascular disease and other illnesses common to western civilisation among them.

The question arises, what is their secret? A probable explanation is that they remain attached to their cultural roots and above all to the tradition that requires Japanese individuals to consider themselves as members of a community or family group. This sense of belonging defines their identity and ensures that they remain community members throughout their lives.

## Individualistic culture

In most other industrialised countries, by contrast, culture is much more based on the individual, on the "I", and on declared social and emotional independence from others. Some scientists suggest that the modern American and Western European way of life suffers because it neglects the bearing that social relationships have on health, even though this may be even more important than eating habits or physical exercise.

The mechanisms of social immunity are not yet completely understood, but a number of studies suggest that the psychological

processes that are activated by social ties have an almost direct influence on the body's immune system.

What is clear is that social relationships can have three important positive effects. First of all, they can serve as a buffer or a security net in the case of serious events. They enable us to cope with our grief and distress through support and also provide material help. Then, relationships can also form a buffer against depression.

When we can at any moment find a relative or close friend or somebody else to talk to about our troubles and fears, we are less likely to wrap ourselves in a cloak

of despair and impotence that may lead to depression. And it is well-established that the state of depression undermines our resistance to illness.

Thirdly, it seems that an active social life favours the secretion of certain substances in the brain known as endorphines, opiate-like substances which have a beneficial effect on mood and behaviour.

These same substances are secreted, for example, through regular physical exercise. The bottom line? An outing with family or friends can have as salutary effect on our health as an exhausting exercise session. — Academic File.



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# U.S. banks raise prime rate to 11%

NEW YORK (R) — Major U.S. banks raised their prime lending rate Friday by a half point to 11 per cent, passing on to customers the costs of the Federal Reserve's (Fed's) tougher anti-inflation policy of recent weeks.

The increases in the rate a bank charges its best customers, were the first such moves in 2½ months and were led by Continental Bank of Chicago and Republic National Bank of New York, two banks not in the top tier of the industry.

After holding their fire for more than an hour, Citibank, the subsidiary of America's largest bank holding company Citicorp, and Chemical Banking Corp.'s

Chemical Bank, followed suit. The two have headquarters in New York.

Major banks last raised the prime by a half-point Nov. 28, but short-term interest rates have continued to rise since then, resulting in an increase in the banks' own costs.

Robert Hatcher, a dealer at Barclays Bank PLC here, linked the prime-rate increase directly to a surprisingly strong one per cent

rise in producer prices in January, announced by the government Friday morning, that was double the December increase.

"It is obvious that there are very strong perceptions in the market that the Fed will be tightening to head off inflation," Hatcher said. "The prime emphasizes that fear."

The increase in prices was taken as a sign that inflation is getting out of hand and that the only way to curb it is for the Fed to raise rates. This gives a higher return to foreigners who invest in dollar assets.

"This entire higher interest rate scenario has been very beneficial for the dollar," Hatcher said.

"The banks are anticipating the next Fed tightening step rather than reacting to it," said David Jones, economist at Aubrey G. Lanston and Co.

Specifically, speculation is growing that the Fed will raise its bellwether discount rate, now 6.5 per cent, which represents the interest that the Fed charges its member banks.

The overnight federal funds rate, an important source of overnight bank funding, has been firming, reflecting an increasingly tight monetary policy by the Fed. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, reaffirming his determination to lower inflation, told Congress last month he would keep interest rates high to take some steam out of an economy that was still surprisingly strong.

He disputed the notion that inflation in the current four to 4½ per cent range was acceptable and said the central bank was still aiming for price stability.

"Current inflation rates, by that criterion, clearly are too high and must be brought down," he

said. Although the prime's importance as a corporate lending rate has diminished through the years, it remains a key rate and influences many consumer rates, including those on variable home-equity loans.

## Stocks, bonds sink but dollar rises

Rising inflation and higher interest rates haunted markets Friday, sending the Dow to its biggest one-day loss in three months and shaving U.S. bonds prices for the third day in a row.

The dollar, which benefits when rates rise, jumped significantly, erasing a good portion of the previous day's retreat.

The Labour Department blamed higher energy prices for a good portion of the rise, but still, on a 12-month basis, it would put inflation at the wholesale level at 12.7 per cent.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 20.17 points Thursday, was off 36.97 points at 2,286.07, putting its decline for the week at 45.18 points.

The fall in the index was the sharpest one-day drop since Nov. 16, when stock prices fell 39 points. The market last crossed the 2,300 level two weeks ago when it was in the midst of the January rally.

"Everyone's gotten a little bearish," one stock trader said, adding that sentiment started turning against the stocks when the government's auction of 30-year bonds Thursday received a cool reception from dealers.

"That put the real hammer on stocks," he said.

For the year, the index is still up 117.50 points, but the 174-

point lead it had at the end of January has shrunk.

News that major banks raised their prime rate sent further shivers through the market, especially bonds. Usually, the prime is a lagging rate, but economists said they believed that banks were acting in anticipation of further interest-rate hikes.

President Bush outlined his fiscal 1990 budget Thursday night, disappointing some traders who had expected dramatic measures to cut the federal budget deficit.

European economists criticised him for focusing on domestic issues instead of the twin budget and trade deficits that international markets find so worrisome.

Bond prices, which have been falling since Wednesday when dealers started shunning the government's auction of notes and bonds, fell further Friday. The new 30-year bond, just auctioned off Thursday, was down 1-8/32 at 98-12/32, a decline which dropped its yield up to 9.03 per cent against its auction yield of 8.91 per cent.

While some investors were unloading stocks and bonds, others were scooping up dollars. The U.S. currency rose almost 2.5 pfennigs to 1.8717 Deutsche marks and almost one yen to 128.70 yen.

The prime rate hike offered gold buyers no solace. Higher interest rates lure investors away from a traditional hedge such as gold, which gives no interest income. April gold contracts sank \$6.30 to \$391.70 an ounce on the New York Commodity Exchange.

"The long-overdue hike in prime rate caught the sophisticated gold traders by surprise and smothered gold's recovery from lows," said George Nickas of Geldermann Inc.

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# IMF seeks \$70b in new funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — A leader of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) called Friday for the United States and other governments to make an additional \$60 billion in various currencies available for loans to financially troubled nations.

H. Onno Ruding, chairman of the fund's ruling Interim Committee and finance minister of the Netherlands, recommended that the United States and other top financial governments agree in the next two months to make the money available.

The fund now has total resources nominally worth about \$120 billion but much of it already is loaned out or not in demand. Some have suggested that this amount be doubled.

"I think if we set our goal at 50 to 60 per cent there will be a better chance of agreement," Ruding told reporters.

He said the West German government has been pressing strongly for action.

Governments need dollars, yen and Deutschmarks

The fund is owned by 151 governments. All of them contribute to it but few borrowing governments need Tanzanian shillings or takas from Bangladesh. They mostly want dollars, Japanese yen, Deutschmarks or other currencies they can use in

countries where they want to make purchases or need to keep up with payments on their debts.

Ruding cited two difficulties in reaching agreement soon: — The lack of a decision so far from the administration of President George Bush on readiness to subscribe its 19.91 per cent share, which under Ruding's proposal could amount to as much as \$16 billion.

The contribution would not be an immediate charge on the U.S. budget, already in heavy deficit. But as the fund made additional loans it would add proportionately to the \$170 to \$250 million a year that fund officials estimate is the present cost of the fund to the United States.

Some member governments have asked for more than a year that agreement be reached on the enlargement of the quotas, as contributions to the fund are called. The administration of former

president Ronald Reagan refused to make the necessary request of Congress last year.

## Japan ranking

— Japan's bid for no. 2 status in the fund, which it has achieved in the bank. Japan is now no. 5 in the fund, behind Britain, West Germany and France as well as the United States.

Becoming no. 2 would require Japan to increase its contribution from the current 4.69 per cent to something like Britain's 6.88 per cent, but the amount of additional Japanese cash would be comparatively small.

"The majority of the members are not opposed," Ruding said. But he foresaw some problems being raised by European members — nos. 2, 3 and 4," he said, without naming them.

"The United States will have some thoughts but there is no real U.S. obstacle," he said.

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday, Feb. 11, 1989					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	417.7	421.8
Pound Sterling	328.8	340.5	Dutch guilder	254.6	256.6
Deutschmark	287.2	288.5	Swedish crown	84.8	85.4
Swiss franc	338.0	340.8	Italian lira (for 100)	39.4	39.8
French franc	84.5	85.2	Belgian franc (for 10)	137.2	138.3

## Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Feb. 4, '89 and ending Wednesday Feb. 8, '89. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
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### Banking and financial institutions

Industrial Development Bank	11399	20169	1.700	1.770	1.000
Petra Bank	77336	214537	2.730	2.740	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	17599	41563	2.050	2.360	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	29903	49004	1.580	1.550	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	48714	66536	1.200	1.310	1.000
Housing Bank	40742	90524	2.000	2.190	1.000
Jordan Investment Bank	6500	15670	2.450	2.350	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	50	1575	31.500	31.500	5.000
Bank of Jordan	2369	40353	17.060	16.500	5.000
Arab Bank	13390	2261169	156.450	161.000	10.000
Jordan National Bank	32132	91523	2.820	2.800	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	26218	68009	2.700	2.770	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	222912	168811	0.970	0.710	1.000
National Financial Investments	750	1690	2.210	2.260	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	255916	296854	1.090	1.060	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	20	305	14.500	15.500	10.000
Middle East Exchange	76050	53779	1.210	1.110	1.000

### Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
REFCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	50244	215134	4.040	4.200	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	1750	1927	1.120	1.130	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	250	273	1.130	1.090	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Arab Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Middle East Insurance	2250	3885	1.620	1.780	1.000
National Ahiya Insurance	3050	4543	1.480	1.500	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000

### Services and industries

General Investments	35338	31477	0.900	0.840	1.000
Imna for Investment and Financial Facilities	360783	345553	0.910	0.880	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	355837	294558	0.810	0.720	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	254859	106079	0.450	0.390	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	73051	14327	0.710	0.680	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajecro	17050	4954	0.820	0.770	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	36926	67586	1.860	1.800	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab International Hotels	75362	66627	0.920	0.760	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	161755	188039	1.160	1.100	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	450	845	1.900	1.800	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing	26250	16234	0.660	0.580	1.000
Jordan Dairy	45233	49205	1.100	1.040	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	238150	819097	3.180	3.640	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	524530	995298	1.970	1.750	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	64588	282660	4.450	4.160	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intag)	32820	60128	1.880	1.710	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	4301	19295	4.620	4.350	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	1500	1065	0.910	1.000	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	170500	355648	2.230	1.900	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	218993	513883	2.430	2.150	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	1400	7355	5.000	5.200	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	42869	104779	2.200	2.400	1.000
Chemical Industries	52101	98200	3.130	2.970	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	166638	140198	0.820	0.790	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	24540	66712	2.800	2.540	1.000
National Steel Industries	189262	612542	3.250	3.080	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	51965	182089	3.750	3.220	1.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	29317	259481	8.760	9.100	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	212650	53136	0.270	0.230	1.000</



## Soviet sets new pole vault record in Japan

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Sergei Buhka of the Soviet Union set a new indoor world record Saturday of 6.03 metres, or 19 feet, 9 1/2 inches, in the pole vault at the Yomiuri-chitose indoor track and field meet.

Buhka broke the old record of 6.02 metres, or 19 feet, 9 inches, set by fellow Soviet Radion Gataulin in January this year. Buhka, the gold medalist at the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, holds the outdoor world record of 6.06 metres.

After establishing the indoor world record, Buhka attempted 6.10 metres but failed in all three attempts.

No other world records were set in the one-day meet.

Tim Bright of the United States finished second in the pole vault, clearing 5.70 metres, five centimetres short of his best mark.

Joe Deloach of the United States, gold medalist in the 200-metre event in the Seoul Olympics, won the men's 60-metre in 6.60 seconds, while compatriot Evelyn Ashford, silver medalist in the 100-metre at Seoul, won the women's 60-metre event in 7.27 seconds, ahead of Jamaican Grace Jackson's 7.41 seconds.

In other men's events, Mike Powell of the United States, a silver medalist at the Seoul games, won the long jump, leaping 8.04 metres.

Mike Macinko of the United States won the 800-metre race with a time of 1:50.68, followed by Ryoichi Kurihara, who set a new Japanese record of 1:50.92.

Danny Everett of the United States captured the 400-metre in 48.97, ahead of compatriot Kyle Hargrett, who finished in 49.28.

Japan's Takehiko Miura won the 1,500-metre in 3:51.06, beating Johan Engholm of Sweden, who was timed at 3:51.11.

The Colorado University team captured the 4-by-400 event with a time of 3:16.81, edging out the Japan selection team, which was timed at 3:16.84, the former meet record.

The U.S. team consisted of Chris Imhoff, Mike Macinko, Steve Provenzano and Kyle Hargrett.

Patrik Sjöberg of Sweden, who won a bronze medal at Seoul, took the high jump, leaping 2.25 metres. South Korea's Cho Hyun-uk was second with 2.15.

World record holder Willie Banks of the United States took the triple-jump with a leap of 16.21 metres, far below his world record of 17.97. Second was Toshiro Ogura of Japan at 16.09. Taiwan's Nai Fui-Feng was third at 15.69.

In the women's events, Olga Nazarova of the Soviet Union won the 400-metre with a time of 55.81 seconds.

Tamara Bykova of the Soviet Union took the high jump by sailing 1.94 metres. Compatriot Olga Turebak had an identical 1.94 metres, but had to settle for second place because of attempt differentials.

Australian Nicole Boegman captured the long jump with a leap of 6.55 metres.

Megumi Fujiwara of Japan won the 3,000-metre, setting a new Japanese record of 9:13.63, while China's Sun Sumei took the 800-metre in 2:14.63.

The one-day tournament, sponsored by the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, was held before 11,000 spectators at Osaka Castle hall in western Japan.

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Megumi Fujiwara of Japan won the 3,000-metre, setting a new Japanese record of 9:13.63, while China's Sun Sumei took the 800-metre in 2:14.63.

The one-day tournament, sponsored by the newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, was held before 11,000 spectators at Osaka Castle hall in western Japan.

Japan's Takehiko Miura won the 1,500-metre in 3:51.06, beating Johan Engholm of Sweden, who was timed at 3:51.11.

The Colorado University team captured the 4-by-400 event with a time of 3:16.81, edging out the Japan selection team, which was timed at 3:16.84, the former meet record.

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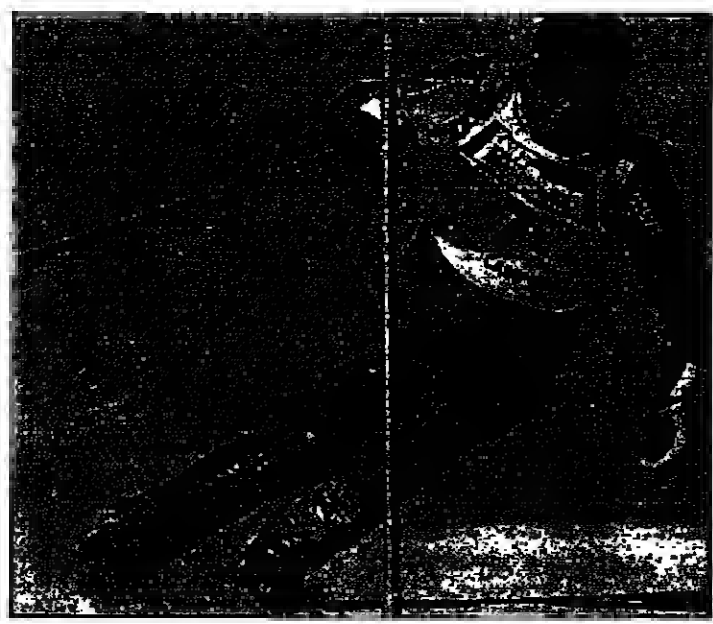
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Pirmin Zurbriggen

## Times are hard for Pirmin Zurbriggen

VAIL, Colorado (AP) — Could this be the same Pirmin Zurbriggen, a tired racer lacking motivation and pondering retirement, who only a year ago was at the top of his craft, touted as a potential five-event Olympic medalist?

Such is the truncated nature of ski racing, where careers often end in the mid-20's and where the infamous Stenmark and Franz Klammer, who compete into their 30's, are rarities.

Zurbriggen, who just turned 26, will have one more go at the World Cup next season, then will withdraw from the unwelcome glare of the racing spotlight to help run his family's inn in the Swiss village of Saas-Almagell.

And, as he puts it, "I learn things I didn't have time to learn earlier in my life."

To be sure, Zurbriggen remains a formidable racer. His silver medal in the super giant slalom and his bronze in the giant slalom in the World Alpine ski championships here are testimony to that.

But those are not Zurbriggen-caliber medals. Not by the standards he was established. This is the racer who won a record-tying four medals — two gold and two silver — in the last world championships in 1987.

This is the same racer who captured the World Cup overall, downhill and Super-G titles last season. This year, he leads the giant slalom and Super-G standings by small margins, but has been badly upstaged by Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli in the downhill and the overall.

Zurbriggen seems unlikely to pocket any gold medals here. Two races remain in the championships — the women's giant slalom Saturday and the men's slalom on Sunday.

Zurbriggen scoffs at his chances in the slalom. When asked about his prospects of winning the race, he laughed. "Slalom is not my strongest event," he said. "I just hope to go fast."

Cracks in the Zurbriggen facade have begun to show. He has begun to admit to the same failings that have plagued other prominent racers on their downside.

"I've won so much, it is getting harder to motivate myself," he said Thursday after his third-place finish in the giant slalom.

"These world championships are not the same for me as the earlier ones. Now, since I'll retire in March of 1990, I'm skiing more for pleasure. Today it's tougher because there are at least 15 racers who can win a race. You need a bit of luck to win now. You must stick to the limit and you cannot make mistakes," he said.

Hayes led Houston to an upset victory over Kameron Abdul-Jabbar (then Lew Alcindor) and top-ranked UCLA before 52,693 fans at the Astrodome.

Abdul-Jabbar almost didn't make it back this weekend, partly because of the Houston connection since Abdul-Jabbar is one of three centers selected ahead of the retiring Lakers legend.

But, when Laker teammate Magic Johnson tore a hamstring in Wednesday night's game with Golden State, Abdul-Jabbar was named to his 18th all-star team, replacing Johnson, who will be out 7-10 days.

"Kareem received the next highest total of votes from the coaches in their selection of the all-star reserves," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "His participation in one more all-star game is a fitting tribute to his unequalled NBA career."

A crowd of up to 45,000 is expected, which would break the previous all-star record of 43,146 at the Hoosier dome in Indianapolis in 1985. A different seating configuration than the one used in 1968 will be in place Sunday.

"It would be nice to be the MVP in Houston," said Olajuwon, the NBA's leading scorer among centers. "But I won't put that kind of pressure on myself. My philosophy is 'no expectation, no disappointment.'"

Jordan, who had 40 points, eight rebounds and four steals last year as the east won 138-133 in Chicago, predicted that "Olajuwon will be pumped up at home and other guys will want him to do well. My teammates tried to pay me respect at home last year, especially when I got hot and really started to do well."

The West, which will be coached by the Lakers' Pat Riley for the seventh time in eight years, will have forwards Karl Malone and Alex English and guard Dale Ellis in the starting lineup along with Olajuwon.

Jordan will start at guard again for the east along with Isiah Thomas. The East coach is Moses Malone and the starting forwards are Charles Barkley and

Domonique Wilkins. Len Wilkins, who was Seattle's coach when he led the West in the 1979 and 1980 all-star games, will coach the east by virtue of leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to the NBA's best record at midseason.

Although none will be starting, Wilkins can call on three Cavaliers on the bench for the East in center Brad Daugherty, forward Larry Nance and guard Mark Price. Ron Harper, Cleveland's leading scorer, was not selected, however.

Other east reserves are center Patrick Ewing and guard Mark Jackson of New York and forwards Kevin McHale of Boston and Terry Cummings of Milwaukee.

## Arsenal beats Millwall, stays clear

LONDON (R) — English First Division leaders Arsenal maintained their three-point advantage over Norwich Saturday when they came from behind to grab a hard-earned 2-1 win at Millwall.

Second-half goals by winger Brian Marwood and England striker Alan Smith secured all three points for Arsenal after winger Jimmy Carter had headed seventh-placed Millwall ahead in the 15th minute of a keenly-contested London derby at the den.

The win extended Arsenal's unbeaten run to 10 league matches and took their tally to 50 points from 23 matches.

Norwich beat seventh-placed Derby 1-0 with a 52nd minute goal from Scottish striker Robert Fleck to carry their total to 47 points from 24 outings.

It was Norwich's first home league win of 1989 and completed their first double of the season. With third-placed Coventry losing 2-1 at home to struggling Newcastle and Nottingham Forest held 0-0 at home by Queen's Park Rangers, Manchester United moved up to third by winning 2-0 at Sheffield Wednesday.

Scottish international striker Brian McClair scored in each half

as United reeled off their sixth successive win.

The point Southampton gained lifted them from 15th to 14th in the table above Luton who did not play Saturday. They meet West Ham Sunday in a televised first leg of their League Cup semifinal.

For Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough, making his last touchline appearance of the season at a league match, his team's goalless draw was a double disappointment.

Forest's extraordinary run of 10 straight league and cup wins came to an end and they missed a perfect opportunity to move up to third with Coventry's surprise defeat.

Clough was banned from the touchline and fined \$8,770 for bringing the game into disrepute by punching supporters who ran on to the Forest pitch after the team's 5-2 League Cup win over Queen's Park Rangers January 18.

The ban does not come into effect until after Forest's F.A. Cup tie next week.

Coventry, missing the scoring power of suspended Scottish forward David Speedie, were well beaten by 19th-placed Newcastle and slipped to fifth.

John Hendrie opened the scoring after 50 minutes and Brazilian striker Mirandinha completed it after 69 with a penalty after an own goal by Frank Pingel had brought Coventry level again.

Newcastle's victory was their first in 10 games but did not affect their place one from the bottom above only West Ham.

Two other struggling clubs, Southampton and Charlton, had their hopes of victories dashed when, after leading, they were forced to settle for draws.

Southampton, seeking their first league win of 1989, led Everton 1-0 thanks to a 22nd minute header by defender Kevin Moore but Irish international midfielder Kevin Sheedy equalised for the Merseyside team in the 69th minute.

Charlton led 1-0 at Tottenham. Paul Williams baying put the relegation-battered South London club ahead with his 14th goal of the season after 36 minutes, but

had their victory hopes shattered when striker Paul Stewart levelled 13 minutes from time.

Charlton remain 17th with 24 points, only three fewer than Tottenham in 13th place and five less than Aston Villa in 12th position.

Villa, sliding into trouble after a good start to the season, were beaten 1-0 at Wimbledon in a match notable for the home team's exemplary behaviour.

Striker John Fashanu scrambled home the winning goal in the 44th minute as Wimbledon, heavily criticised for their violence and indiscipline in recent weeks, survived 90 minutes without any of their players receiving a caution.

In Scotland heavy rain reduced the premier division to only three fixtures.

An own goal in injury time by England defender Gary Stevens gave Dundee United a 1-1 draw with leaders Rangers to keep the race for the title alive.

Rangers had seemed set to open a four-point lead over United until the late and unexpected equaliser.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Wilander withdraws from U.S. tennis indoor

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Mats Wilander of Sweden, the no. 1 seed for the U.S. tennis indoor at the Memphis racquet club, has withdrawn from the tournament lineup, an organizer of the affair says. "It's a blow. I've never had a no. 1 seed pull out on me before," said Tommy Buford, tournament director. Wilander, ranked no. 2 in the world, cited a shin-splint injury as the reason for withdrawing. Buford said Thursday. The tournament is scheduled to begin Monday and is sanctioned by the Association of Tennis Professionals. Ramesh Krishnan of India upset Wilander in straight sets at the Australian Open last month.

### Baracchi smashes track record

CORTINA, Italy (AP) — Nico Baracchi smashed the track record and led a 1-2 placing by Swiss sleds Saturday after the first two runs of the world 4-man bobsled championships. The 27-year-old driver from Zurich edged teammate Gustav Weder by a mere .12 of a second after the first two runs, with Ingo Appelt of Austria coming in third. Baracchi smashed the record for the 1,288-metre course in his first run with a fantastic 53.27 seconds. He had 53.76 in the second for an aggregate of 1 minute, 47.03 seconds. Weder, a silver medalist in the 2-man event in this Dolomite resort last week and the Swiss team's no. 1 driver, had times of 53.53 seconds and 53.62 for a second-place aggregate of 1:47.15. His second run was the fastest in the field of 25 sleds.

### Carl Lewis falls at Spanish meet

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AP) — Cuban sprinter Andres Simon upset Olympic 100-metre Gold medalist Carl Lewis Friday to win the 60-metre dash in the San Sebastian indoor track meet. The American placed third behind compatriot Mark Witherspoon in his first European appearance of the year. Simon's winning time was 6.58 seconds. Witherspoon followed at 6.59 and Lewis at 6.60. There was no immediate comment from Lewis, who reportedly was paid \$24,560 for his single appearance in the 60-metre event.

### Italian unions promise strike truce during soccer World Cup

ROME (R) — Italy's three main trade union confederations have promised a strikes truce during the 1990 World Cup soccer tournament for the sake of the country's image. After a meeting Thursday with tourism minister Franco Carraro, who is responsible for sport, the unions said they would ensure there were no strikes by their millions of members during the tournament, in June 1990. Giorgio Benvenuto of the Socialist Trade Union Confederation UIL told reporters: "It is important that the World Cup is conducted in such a way that the country should be a shop window for efficiency and peace."

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### TAKE THE SIMPLE LINE

Both vulnerable. South deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ K Q 7 5 4  
♥ Q 7 4  
♦ Void  
♣ A K J 7 3

**EAST**  
♠ A J 6 2  
♥ 10 9 8 3  
♦ Void  
♣ K J 8

**SOUTH**  
♠ Void  
♥ A K 7 6 5 2  
♦ A 10 5 3  
♣ 8 6 2

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass  
2 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass  
3 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠  
Don't look for some abstruse line to fulfill your contract when there is some relatively straightforward solution at hand. Test your technique on this little teaser after West leads a trump and East discards a diamond on the first trick.

Once South confirmed a six-card suit by rebidding two hearts over one spade, North took charge. While Blackwood with a void is un-

usual, there is some slight justification on this auction. South could hardly have less than the ace-king of hearts or two aces and the king of hearts for his opener and rebid, and North was not interested in a grand slam opposite a minimum.

This hand is really little more than an exercise in counting. If clubs are 3-2, as is normal, declarer has six trump tricks, one diamond and four clubs, for a total of 11 tricks. A 12th trick can be obtained via a diamond ruff. However, there is an entry problem to the closed hand because of the 4-0 trump split. Declarer can't afford to come to hand with a spade ruff for a club finesse. If it loses, he would not have enough entries to return to hand for a diamond ruff and also to draw trumps when East forces him to ruff a second spade prematurely.

The simple solution is to win the trump lead in dummy and duck a club at trick two! Suppose East wins and returns a spade. Declarer ruffs, ruffs a diamond on the table and cashes the high heart. He can get back to hand with another spade ruff to draw the last two trumps and cash the ace of diamonds. A club to the board nets the rest of the tricks as long as the suit belongs.

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# Bhutto begins China visit

PEKING (Agencies) — Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto arrived in China Saturday for talks expected to seek a joint strategy of Afghanistan, where both countries have been major backers of rebels fighting the Soviet-backed government.

Bhutto told journalists at Peking airport the three-day visit, her first official overseas tour as prime minister, was also "a sentimental one." She last visited China in the 1970s when her late father Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was Pakistan's leader.

"Of course there have been changes since then, and I want to re-familiarise myself. The friendship (between Pakistan and China) has stood the test of time," Bhutto said.

The two countries' close relationship appears not to have been affected by the death of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq in an air crash last year and the subsequent election of Bhutto, his political foe.

The Pakistani leader is due to meet senior Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, Premier Li Peng and Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang.

Pakistani officials and diplomats said before the visit that Afghanistan would figure highly on the agenda.

With Moscow's final withdrawal from Afghanistan imminent, China's and Pakistan's concerns have shifted from opposition to the Soviet presence there to forging a new Afghan government

from among divided guerrilla factions.

Peking and Islamabad wanted to continue a common Afghan strategy even after the Soviet withdrawal, Pakistani officials said.

"China... supports Pakistan's efforts for the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan," a Pakistani foreign ministry statement said.

Pakistan, Afghanistan's southern neighbour, has sheltered some three million Afghan refugees who fled their country after the Soviet intervention in late 1979. Pakistan has also allowed the Western-backed Afghan rebel groups to operate from its soil.

The withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet troops, due to be completed Feb. 15 under U.N.-mediated accords signed in Geneva last April, has also brought a

thaw in relations between China and the Soviet Union.

Soviet and Chinese leaders are to hold summit talks in May.

Bhutto and Chinese officials are expected to compare notes on recent visits to both Islamabad and Peking by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. With Bhutto is her husband Asif Ali Zardari and Foreign Minister Sababzada Yaqub Khan.

For China, the visit comes at a time of great fluidity in its relations with the rest of Asia. Improving ties with India and the Soviet Union no longer make Pakistan a natural ally. But other factors, such as a shrinking arms market highlighting Pakistan's importance as a buyer, guarantee a good relation for some time to come.

"In other countries you are witnessing the first visits to China



Benazir Bhutto

in 30 years," said Pakistan's ambassador, M. Akram Zaki, referring to the recent visit to China by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the planned meetings in May between Deng and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"With us, we have been friends throughout."

# Administration tries to cancel North trial

WASHINGTON (R) — The Bush administration will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to suspend the trial of former White House aide Oliver North in a bid to protect national security secrets, according to Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.

Thornburgh announced Friday the appeal minutes after a U.S. court of appeals rejected the administration's emergency request that it halt the trial of North out of fear that national security secrets would be revealed.

He charged that the judge in the case has failed to follow the proper procedures on the use of classified information at trial. "Instead, he has adopted procedures of his own which could adversely affect the national security interests of the United States."

Justice Department officials said the appeal to the nation's high court will be filed Saturday.

The one-page order by the three appellate judges rejected the administration's motion to stop the trial Iran-contra trial before it resumes Monday with opening statements by the prosecution and the defence.

It was the third defeat for the

administration in a high-stakes legal battle with the independent special prosecutor that will determine whether the case against North, who faces 12 criminal charges, goes forward.

North is the first of several defendants to go on trial over the Iran-contra affair in which arms were sold to Iran by the United States and the profits sent to the Nicaraguan contras fighting the Sandinista government at a time when such aid had been banned by Congress.

The charges against North include shredding secret White House documents to cover up the scandal, lying to Congress and former Attorney General Edwin Meese and participating in a tax-fraud conspiracy to arm the contras.

The administration suddenly intervened in the case this week, as the 12-member jury was seated, in a bid to get the trial judge to impose stricter controls on the secrets that North's attorneys can reveal as evidence.

On Thursday, the appeals court upheld the decision by trial Judge Gerhard Gesell rejecting the administration's claims as "frivolous."

# Try this programme, you...

NEW YORK (AP) — A free computer programme that can generate 22 million insults has won the seal of approval of an organisation devoted to the art of curses, slurs and maledictions. The programme, Insults, combines and re-combines about 400 choice words to produce PG-rated phrases such as: "You revolting box of fresh bug parts." Dale McKinnon, the author, said Thursday he had upgraded Insults several times since its publication in 1983 and won the Maledicta seal of approval with the current release, which was completed last month. "Insults is a fountain of millions of high-quality insults," Dr. Reinhold Aman, president of the International Maledicta Society, said in a statement endorsing the programme.

# Stallone goes to prison for movie

NEW YORK (R) — Sylvester Stallone — the 16-million-dollar-a-film man — will spend the next few weeks in prison with hardened convicts who are earning minimum wage to appear in his new film, a corrections spokesman said. The star of the "Rambo" and "Rocky" series is filming a yet untitled prison action drama inside two New Jersey prisons, but hiring prison inmates at \$3.75 an hour in lieu of professional extras has not endeared him to the actors' unions. "The only way to make a prison film is to make it with professional actors," said Jerome Blackwell, a labour organizer for the Screen Extras Guild. "They (the convicts) shouldn't make a penny. They're taking jobs from actors."

# Elephants force residents inside

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A herd of elephants forced residents of a small coastal town to remain indoors overnight and allowed nightclub patrons to enjoy themselves long after legal closing hours, the Kenya oews agency reported. The government-owned agency said Kwaile residents fled indoors and locked themselves inside when 20 elephants strolled into town Wednesday evening.

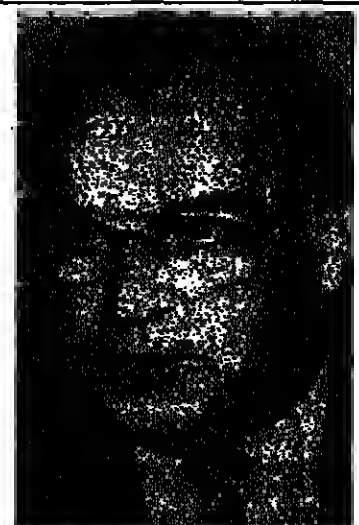
# Kohl will try to block NATO modernisation

BONN (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government made clear that it intends to try to stall an expected North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) decision on whether the alliance should replace some European-based nuclear missiles with longer-range rockets.

Kohl's spokesman, Friedhelm Ost, told reporters Friday that West Germany sees no need for the 16-member NATO to decide the issue before 1991. The decision is expected in June.

The plan proposes replacing some of the short-range rockets, capable of reaching targets up to 500 kilometres away, with missiles that can hit targets at greater distances.

Soviet and other East Bloc officials contend the upgrade



Helmut Kohl

however, on whether West Germany would go along with the rest of the alliance should the other members approve the plan.

# Bush promises Mulroney quick action on acid rain

OTTAWA (R) — President Bush, in his first diplomatic venture abroad, moved to deal a long-standing sore point with Canada Friday by pledging fast action on reducing acid rain emissions.

Bush, in his first trip since the inauguration, vowed to move quickly on legislation to cut acid rain in the United States and also agreed to forge an accord with Canada on the transborder problem of environmental damage

from pollutants.

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, constantly rebuffed by the Reagan administration on the issue, appeared pleased with what he termed "quite substantial progress" on the acid rain question.

But Mulroney, who made reaching an acid rain treaty with the United States a cornerstone of his foreign policy shortly after taking office in 1984, failed to get any kind of timetable from the

# Pretoria bans protests against detention policy

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa has banned all protest meetings against detention without trial, including nine planned by lawyers to press for the release of 300 detainees who have gone on a hunger strike.

The ban was ordered under South Africa's sweeping emergency laws by the commissioner of police, General Hendrik de Wit, and published in a government gazette Saturday.

De Wit specifically banned a meeting planned by lawyers from three prominent law groups in Johannesburg Saturday.

The National Association of Democratic Lawyers, lawyers for human rights, and the Black Lawyers Association organised the meeting.

"We the concerned lawyers in the Johannesburg area call on other concerned members of the public and lawyers to join us in a meeting to protest against our clients' continued detention under the state of emergency," lawyers representing the hunger strikers said in a statement before the ban.

The detainees, some held without trial for 31 months, have threatened to starve themselves to death in prisons in Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth if they are not charged or released.

They are among about 1,000 detainees held under the nationwide state of emergency imposed in June 1986.

Some of the strikers have gone 18 days without food and one is close to kidney failure, supporters said Saturday. Most of the strikers are taking only water with a little salt and sugar.

The Detainees Aid Centre, a human rights group, said three more detainees were taken Friday to Hillbrow Hospital in Johannesburg, bringing to 11 the number hospitalised this week.

Law and Order Minister Adrian Vlok has accused anti-government radicals of forcing prisoners to join the strike. He says the government will not bow to pressure.

The hunger strike has drawn protests from medical, legal, academic and church groups.

Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu appealed to Vlok Friday to free the hunger strikers.

# Bus blast kills 12 in India

GUWAHATI (R) — Tribal extremists bombed a bus in India's north-eastern Assam state, killing at least 12 passengers and injuring 22, police said Saturday. A time-bomb believed planted by Bodo tribal extremists went off in the bus at Kajalgan, 250 kilometres from Gauhati, Assam's commercial centre, Friday.

The extremists demand a separate state carved out of India's prosperous tea-growing state.

# International group to observe Sri Lanka poll

COLOMBO (R) — The government said Saturday an international group will observe Sri Lanka's upcoming general elections amid opposition charges the poll will not be free and fair.

Police said three small bombs were hurled at a ruling United National Party rally in Colombo Friday night, killing a child and wounding several other people in the latest incident leading up to Wednesday's election.

The foreign ministry said 18 people from Britain, the Non-Aligned Movement and South Asian nations would arrive Sunday to observe the poll.

The group was assembled in response to demands from the opposition, who have charged that the violent situation would benefit the ruling party.

"The experience of the last presidential election and the emerging pattern of threats, intimidation, killings and the open violation of election laws give us cause for serious concern as to whether a free and fair general election can be held," the main opposition group, the Freedom

# International group to observe Sri Lanka poll

Party, told the elections commissioner.

Freedom Party leader and former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike told reporters Friday there had been 1,100 political and other murders since the presidential poll Dec. 19.

Bandaranaike, 72, who survived an assassination attempt last Sunday during an election rally, said seven of her party's candidates had been murdered and 41 supporters killed since campaigning began Jan. 6.

She said "an environment of terror and violence is being systematically built up to bring about a low voter turnout" and suggested that would benefit the United National Party.

A Defence Ministry official denied any state agencies were involved in deliberate political killings. The ministry said that "subversives and other anti-social groups were masquerading in military-type uniforms."

Security authorities have blamed the leftwing People's Liberation Front for most of the violence.

# World has only years to reverse environmental decline

WASHINGTON (R) — The world's environment showed increasing signs of strain last year, hit by droughts, floods and pollution, and governments have only years rather than decades to reverse the trend, a research group said Saturday.

The Worldwatch Institute's "state of the world" report said environmental problems were now truly global and individual governments must act in concert to solve them.

"Ozone depletion, climate change, and oceanic pollution simply cannot be solved at the national level," the report said. "The environmental era now dawning is distinguished by problems truly global in scale."

Population limits, reversing the "greenhouse effect" and

ensuring food production levels in an era of potential shortages are all priorities for coordinated action, it said.

"We have years, not decades to turn the situation around," Worldwatch President Lester Brown said in an interview. If not, "environmental destruction will lead to economic decline and social disintegration."

In the most visible environmental disruption, drought devastated crops in North America and China last year, seriously depleting world grain stocks. The stocks are projected to fall to about a two-month supply this year.

The drought gave a foretaste of a projected global warming trend caused by increasing concentrations of car-

bon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere, Brown said.

The warming trend, or greenhouse effect, has been linked to fossil-fuel and forest depletion, although scientists differ on whether it actually caused the drought.

A British study last week revealed that the average global temperature in 1988 was the warmest on record, followed closely by five other years this decade.

Even if the drought was not repeated, the world would be hard-pressed to rebuild food stocks, with about 84 million more mouths to feed each year and agricultural productivity lagging, Brown said.

At the other extreme, floods exacerbated by forest destruction in the Himalayan moun-

tains inundated Bangladesh and left millions homeless.

Other problems include accelerating depletion of the ozone layer and polluted oceans that fouled beaches in several nations.

Population control and energy conservation are keys to protecting the environment, the Worldwatch report said.

It said the world's birth rate should be reduced to about 19 births per 1,000 people from the current rate of 28 per cent 1,000. This would effectively halve population growth.

Brown said nations should try to limit families to one or two children. He said it would be a politically difficult task but ultimately more humane than letting famine limit population.

# WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

## Seoul passes bill to help North ties

SEOUL (R) — South Koreans will be able to visit North Korea legally for the first time since 1945 under a bill approved by the South's cabinet Saturday. A government spokesman said the bill would take precedence over South Korea's National Security Law which carries a maximum penalty of death for private contacts with the North. He said the bill, which needs parliamentary approval, was intended to make trade and other exchanges with the North easier. "In the age of reconciliation, some current laws are becoming obsolete," the spokesman said. "It was necessary to have a new law to make legal direct human and material exchanges between the South and North." The bill would also allow South Korean businessmen to engage in duty-free trade with the North.

## Manila fire leaves thousands homeless

MANILA (AP) — Three mysterious fires broke out within hours of each other in the Manila area, leaving thousands of people homeless, police said Saturday. The origins of all three fires were unclear and police said they only had details on the first blaze. The first fire broke out Friday afternoon in Manila's slum district of Tondo, touching off an eight-hour blaze that gutted about 2,000 houses, said arson investigator Sergeant Baltazar Dimagiba. The cause of the fire is still under investigation, he said. At least three firemen and a woman suffered burns or minor injuries during the fire, Dimagiba said. He said several people, mostly children, were missing but there were no reports of deaths. Several Manila newspapers reported that five people were reported missing and presumed to have died in the fire.

## Burma hits at U.S. rights report

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Burma countered a scathing U.S. attack on its human rights record, saying individual freedom has to give way to public welfare in a small country. "It is unfair to measure the human rights situation in another country with the yardstick of a superpower which has no security and economic problems in their country," government Spokesman Kyaw Sann

told a news conference Friday. The State Department's annual report on human rights around the world, released in Washington this week, charged that more than 3,000 Burmese citizens were killed by troops who suppressed pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988. The report also cited credible reports of torture, arbitrary arrest, compulsory labour and the disappearance of political detainees last year.

## Pollution plagues Soviet Union

MOSCOW (AP) — Pollution in the Soviet Union is so terrible that stray dogs are tossed in a lake of toxic wastes to disintegrate in one town and some workers in a Volga river chemical plant take medical retirement at 45, newspapers reported Friday. Other reports said Moscow water contains five to 20 times the permitted amount of fertilisers and other toxic chemicals and the entire village of Muzichyia Pavlovka is being relocated because repeated leaks from a nearby natural gas processing plant have left more than half the children with chronic diseases. Those stories appeared Friday alone in Soviet newspapers, which have moved enthusiastically into environmental reporting since Gorbachev — President Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of openness — converted such complaints from anti-Soviet treachery to good citizenship.

## Marcos' condition worsens

HONOLULU (AP) — Ferdinand Marcos' condition worsened to critical when he began running a fever, a hospital official said. Marcos, 71, was in critical but stable condition Friday night, said Norma Kop, a spokeswoman for Saint Francis Medical Centre. He had been in guarded condition earlier in the day. Marcos remained in the hospital's intensive care unit and was still breathing with the aid of a respirator, Kop said. She declined to elaborate. Marcos has been in the hospital for nearly a month with pneumonia and bronchial asthma. Marcos Spokesman Gemmo Trinidad said Marcos' worsened condition "means there is infection again." "I would suspect it's the lungs because of the tracheostomy," Trinidad said. In a tracheostomy, a surgical incision is made in the trachea to create an artificial breathing hole.

# THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Ertter

**SENSIBLE DEFINITIONS**  
By William Cassin

**ACROSS**

1 Gentleman	24 Crusader's foe	70 Spiral	105 Composer's low
4 Antifreeze brand	26 Chemical suffix	71 Honored athlete	show of approval?
6 Cliffhanger	27 Possessive	74 Songbird	109 Deputy
8 Lark	28 Period of time	75 Hue	110 Athletic org.
17 Comp. pt.	29 Durable dental	80 Pen	112 Reclined
18 At the summit	30 Arthur	81 Vasco da	113 Ancient Gr.
19 Note to the	31 Lark's mate	82 "Bugs"	colony
21 Sudden thought	32 Flooded	83 Home for W.	114 Treve
22 Defect of the	33 Debt or shorts	84 Shamble	115 Receptacle for
23 Essayist's	34 Lark's mate	85 Letter	swimmer's
24 "Monstrous"	35 Lark's mate	86 Lark's mate	weapons
25 "Monstrous"	36 Lark's mate	87 Lark's mate	119 Pastry
26 Lark's mate	37 Lark's mate	88 Lark's mate	120 Scottish
27 Approach	38 Lark's mate	89 Lark's mate	121 Lark's mate
28 Lark's mate	39 Lark's mate	90 Lark's mate	122 Lark's mate
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